

GEORGE MAYFIELD.

JANUARY 13, 1832.

Mr. CLAY, from the Committee on the Public Lands, made the following

REPORT:

*The Committee on the Public Lands, who were instructed to "inquire into the expediency of authorizing a patent to issue to George Mayfield, for six hundred and forty acres of land," submit the following report:*

That the said George Mayfield, in the year 1789, when he was about ten years of age, was taken prisoner by a party of Creek Indians. His father and elder brother were killed by the same party of Indians. He was adopted into an Indian family, and continued to reside with them, in the nation, till about the year 1800; when he was prevailed on to make a visit to his family and friends, residing in Tennessee, where he was captured; but without any intention, on his part, to abandon the Indians. He had, during his captivity, forgotten his own, and acquired the language of the Indians, and had contracted a fondness for their mode of life; but the influence of his friends, and the strength of his returning affections for his mother and brethren, finally determined him to remain with them. He soon regained some knowledge of his native tongue, has since married, and is now the father of a large family of children.

By the death of his father and elder brother, George and a younger brother inherited a considerable real estate; but his early habits and education among the Indians, had taught him to place little value on a separate property in land, and his generous feelings toward his mother and sisters, induced him to relinquish to them his whole interest in his father's estate, except about eighty acres. Upon this small tract, in the State of Tennessee, and near the spot where his father and brother were murdered, he now resides.

When the disturbances commenced with the Creek Indians, during the late war, the commanding General of the Tennessee troops, at once thought of George Mayfield, as qualified to be of great service by his knowledge of the enemy's country and language. Expectation was not disappointed—throughout the Creek war he proved himself a faithful and intrepid soldier, and performed the most perilous and essential services, as a *guide*, *interpreter*, and *spy*. He was wounded in the right shoulder by a rifle ball, in the battle of the Horse-shoe.

Such was the high estimation in which Mayfield was held by the Creeks generally, that, at the treaty of Fort Jackson, in the year 1814, notwith-

standing the active part he had taken in the war, which had just terminated, the chiefs of the war party, as well as those who had remained friendly to the whites, united in a voluntary request that a reservation of six hundred and forty acres of land should be secured to him, in the treaty, as a testimony of their respect and affection for him, contracted during his residence among them. That part of the treaty, which was intended to grant the reservation, was not ratified, probably, because it embraced other reservations which were not sustained by services equally meritorious, or on grounds of public policy. From the evidence before them, the committee do not believe, that the proposed reservation was the result of any management or contrivance on the part of Mayfield; but are of opinion, that it was the spontaneous offer of the Chiefs of the nation, as well in consideration of former attachments, as of services rendered in facilitating negotiations for peace between their nation and the United States. Under this view of the facts, the committee conclude that the claim is well founded, and, accordingly, ask leave to report a bill.